

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08989 231708Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /051 W

----- 008164

P R 231535Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4067

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO 16TH AIR FORCE/JAG

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SECDEF FOR ISA (BARRINGER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MILI, SP

SUBJ: G-3 TARIFF (SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS)

REF : MADRID 8869

1. AS OF TODAY, THE ONLY ACTION AT ALGECIRAS ADDITIONAL TO THE DECEMBER 17 FREEZING OF THE BANK ACCOUNT OF SEA-LAND'S AGENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN AUTHORIZATION BY THE LOCAL JUDGE TO DENY THE AGENT ACCESS TO ITS OJWCES.#NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AS YET ON THE BASIS OF THIS AUTHORIZATION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SEA-LAND REPRESENTATIVE THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BY THE CORPORATION TO PAY THE OUTSTANDING G-3 BILL.

2. WE RAISED THIS MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON DECEMBER 19 AT THE LEVEL OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS (PERINAT), AND TODAY THE AMBASSADOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA TO SUGGEST THAT, SINCE THIS MATTER IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THUS SHOULD SOON BE RESOLVED, THE GOS CONSIDER ESTABLISHING IN THE INTERIM AN ESCROW ACCOUNT

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PAGE 02 MADRID 08989 231708Z

AT ALGECIRAS INTO WHICH THE APPROPRIATE SUMS SHOULD

BE PLACED.

3. AREILZA, WHO HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS MATTER, ASKED WHY SEA-LAND COULDN'T SIMPLY MOVE ITS OPERATIONS TEMPORARILY BACK TO CADIZ, WHERE AN ESCROW ACCOUNT ALREADY EXISTS, BUT SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE EXPLANATION THAT THIS WOULD IMPOSE A CONSIDERABLE BURDEN ON SEA-LAND OPERATIONS, OF WHICH THE MILITARY CARGOES ARE ONLY A SMALL PART.

4. AREILZA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE RECENT ACTIONS IN ALGECIRAS WERE THE RESULT OF THE MOMENTUM OF EARLIER BUREAUCRATIC DECISIONS, TAKEN BEFORE THIS GOVERNMENT CAME INTO OFFICE, AND UNDERTOOK TO EXAMINE THE MATTER FURTHER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE OUR STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO AVOID A FAIT ACCOMPLI AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY ENJOY SOME SUCCESS, THEY ONLY UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING THIS MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL IN THE WEEKS TO COME. THE SPANISH HAVE SIGNALLED A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE CONCESSIONS ELSEWHERE FOR A US CONCESSION ON G-3 (MADRID 7292). HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THEY WILL GO MUCH BEYOND THIS.

6. (THIS MESSAGE WAS APPROVED IN DRAFT BY THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.)  
EATON

NOTE BY OC/T: MADRID 8989 PARA 1, LINE 5 # AS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

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